

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power;

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein; and

a negative lens located nearest to an image side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40$$

... (7),

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

See the attached Appendix for changes made to effect the above claim.

Please add new claims 42-60 as follows:

42. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power;

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or a negative lens,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

43. (New) A zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein the first lens group comprises one positive lens.

44. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein the fourth lens group comprises one positive lens.

45. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein the second lens group comprises a negative lens, a negative lens and a positive lens.

46. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein the third lens group comprises a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens.

47. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein the third lens group comprises a positive single lens convex on an object side thereof and a doublet consisting of a positive lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative lens concave on an image side thereof.

48. (New) A zoom lens system according to claim 47, wherein the third lens group comprises a cemented surface that is convex on an object side thereof.

49. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein the fourth lens group has a surface with a stronger curvature on an object side thereof than on an image side thereof.

50. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein the first lens group remains fixed during zooming.

51. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein the third lens group moves during zooming.

52. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein the third lens group moves toward the object side of the system from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

53. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein a condition $0.5 < |F_2 / F_3| < 1.2$ is satisfied.

54. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein a condition $0.49 < |L_3 / L_2| < 1$ is satisfied.

55. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42 or 43, wherein a condition $2 < (F_{3,4w}) / IH < 3.3$ is satisfied.

56. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

- a first lens group having positive refracting power;
- a second lens group having negative refracting power;
- a third lens group having positive refracting power; and
- a fourth lens group having positive refracting power,

wherein during zooming, a space between said first and second lens groups, a space between said second and third lens groups and a space between said third and fourth lens groups vary independently,

wherein said third lens group consists of, in order from an object side thereof, a double-convex positive lens, and a doublet consisting of a positive meniscus lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative meniscus lens, and said fourth lens group consists of a double-convex lens having a large curvature on an object side surface thereof, and

wherein a negative lens is located nearest to the image side of the second lens group and a condition $v_{21} < 40$ is satisfied.

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cont
57. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

- a first lens group having positive refracting power;
- a second lens group having negative refracting power;
- a third lens group having positive refracting power; and
- a fourth lens group having positive refracting power,

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wherein during zooming, a space between said first and second lens groups, a space between said second and third lens groups and a space between said third and fourth lens groups vary independently,

wherein said third lens group consists of, in order from an object side thereof, a double-convex positive lens, and a doublet consisting of a positive meniscus lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative meniscus lens, and

said fourth lens group consists of a double-convex lens having a large curvature on an object side surface thereof, and

wherein the first lens group comprises one positive lens and the second lens group comprises, in order from an object side thereof, a negative lens, a negative lens and a positive lens.

58. (New) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group having negative refracting power;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group having positive refracting power,

wherein during zooming, a space between said first and second lens groups, a space between said second and third lens groups and a space between said third and fourth lens groups vary independently,

wherein said third lens group consists of, in order from an object side thereof, a double-convex positive lens, and a doublet consisting of a positive meniscus lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative meniscus lens, and said fourth lens group consists of a double-convex lens having a large curvature on an object side surface thereof, and

wherein the second lens group is positioned on the image side at a telephoto end of the zoom lens system rather than at a wide-angle end of the zoom lens system, and the third lens group is positioned on the object side at the telephoto end of the zoom lens system rather than at the wide-angle end of the zoom lens system.

59. (New) A zoom lens system according to claim 58, wherein the fourth lens group moves during zooming.

60. (New) A zoom lens system comprising, in order from an object side thereof,

a positive first lens group comprising one single lens;

a negative second lens group comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a negative lens convex on an object side thereof, a negative lens concave on an image side thereof and a positive lens convex on an object side thereof;

a positive third lens group comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a positive single lens convex on an object side thereof and a doublet consisting of a positive lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative lens concave on an image side thereof, with any of surfaces therein being defined by an aspheric surface, and

a fourth lens group comprising one positive single lens convex on an object side thereof,

wherein at least the second, third and fourth lens groups move for zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said zoom lens system, the second lens group moves toward the image side at the telephoto end rather than at the wide-angle end, and the third lens group moves toward the object side at the telephoto end rather than at the wide-angle end.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure, attached as a separate sheet.

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A compact yet low-cost zoom lens system being particularly suited for use with small portable information terminal equipment is provided. The zoom lens system includes, in order from an object side thereof, a first, third and fourth lens groups G1, G3 and G4 that have positive refracting powers and a second lens group G2 that has negative refracting power. Lens group G1 remains fixed during zooming and lens groups G2 and G3 move during zooming and lens group G4 is movable during zooming. In one embodiment, the zoom lens system includes a negative lens located nearest to the imaging side of the second lens group G2 that satisfies condition (7).
